



State of California
The Natural Resources Agency
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT	Reader Ranch Fuel Break		
PROJECT LOCATION	Sec 17, T17N, R08E, MDB&M	COUNTY	Nevada
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Sean Griffis		
ADDRESS	CAL FIRE-NEU Unit Headquarters, 13760 Lincoln Way Auburn, CA 95603	PHONE	(530) 277-2314

Project Description

This project area consists of up to 224 acres located along a ridge line above Shady Creek. The vegetative cover is primarily a mixed conifer, black oak overstory with a thick, heavy brush understory. The land is zoned for agriculture and forest land with most parcels in excess of forty acres. The area is a wildland urban interface with several homes receiving direct protection by the fuel break.

The proposed project involves utilizing CALFIRE hand crews and/or masticators to remove understory fuels along the ridgeline and/or nearby roads to provide a safe, strategic location to attack a wildfire while improving access and egress to responding units and the public. The work will remove the fuel ladder by removing underbrush and pruning trees up eight to ten feet where practical. Trees greater than 6" diameter will be left uncut unless infested with insects and a likely threat to the remaining trees. A RPF shall identify any trees over 6" diameter to be removed.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- ☒ Categorical Type/Section: Class 1, 4, and 7 14 CCR§15304, Minor Alterations to Land Exemption
- ☐ Statutory Exemption (state code section):
- ☐ Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
- ☐ Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
- ☐ Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

14CCR§15304, Minor Alteration to Land. The project involves using a masticator and hand crews to clear brush and ladder fuels on and adjacent to a ridgeline and roadways. The resulting condition will be only slightly and temporarily altered from the existing conditions of the land. A CAL FIRE Registered Professional Forester has conducted an environmental review of the project and determined, pursuant to 14 CCR § 15300.2 (a), (b), (c) and (f) that no cumulative impacts will occur and no historical resources or unusual circumstances exist which would prevent the use of a Categorical Exemption.

Field review by CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. The Department has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, or to utilities and service systems. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at NEU Headquarters in Auburn.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

JAN 25 2016

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Helge Eng, Deputy Director
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Date

1/21/16